

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 PPT-02 SCA-01 VO-03 CPR-02 EB-11

COME-00 RSR-01 INRE-00 /143 W
----- 082252

P R 021030 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9867
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0401

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NATO CPAS LY

SUBJECT: LIBYAN PASSPORT POLICY

REF: USNATO 1598

1. THE GREEK PROPOSAL TO REFUSE VIA (LIBYAN) PASSPORTS
PRINTED ONLY IN ARABIC IS, OF COURSE, AN OLD IDEA. WE
HAVE CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED IT. LET'S REVIEW THE PROS AND
CONS AGAIN.

2. LIKE UTOPIA, IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL IF POSSIBLE TO
REALIZE, I. E. TO ADOPT WORLDWIDE OR EVEN AMONG NATO
COUNTRIES. FOR THEN THE LARG WOULD HAVE TO PAY A HIGHER
PRICE FOR REFUSING TO VISA FOREIGN PASSPORTS NOT IN
ARABIC, A NEW DIMENSION OF THE VISA WAR WOULD EMERGE,
AND IN THEORY THE LARG MIGHT ACCEPT DEFEAT AND DROP

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ITS REMAINING RESTRICTIONS.

3. UNFORTUNATELY, THE REALITY IS THAT THE MORE THE VISA WAR IS ESCALATED TO NEW DIMENSIONS THE MORE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FALLS APART. FROM WHAT WE HEAR, THE MYTH IS GROWING WITHIN THE LARG THAT ITS DEMAND FOR FOREIGN PASSPORTS IN ARABIC IS ONLY A REACTION TO FOREIGN GOVTS' REFUSALS TO ACCEPT LIBYAN PASSPORTS IN ARABIC ONLY. THE FACT THAT THIS IS NOT TRUE DOES NOT HAMPER THE MYTH, BUT TO GIVE IT SUBSTANCE BY ACTUALLY STARTING TO REFUSE VISAS FOR PASSPORTS IN ARABIC ONLY WOULD BE FOLLY IN THE ABSENCE OF COMPLETE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY ON THE ISSUE. THAT SOLIDARITY IS OBVIOUSLY UNATTAINABLE EVEN ON FAR LESSER MEASURES.

4. IN OTHER WORDS, THE GREEK PROPOSAL IS LIKE THE RUSSIAN THREAT TO REQUIRE RUSSIAN IN LIBYAN PASSPORTS-- NAMELY EMPTY, INTERNATIONALLY UNENFORCEABLE, AND THEREFORE INCREDIBLE TO THE LARG.

5. INSTEAD OF HATCHING IDEAS LIKE THIS, NATO WOULD BE BETTER ADVISED TO TRY TO ACHIEVE SOLIDARITY WHERE IT IS RELATIVELY MORE ATTAINABLE. IT HAS ATTAINED UNANIMITY ON REFUSING TO ISSUE PASSPORTS IN ARABIC OR TO AUTHENTICATE PRIVATE TRANSLATIONS. THESE ARE ONLY NEGATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS, HOWEVER. THE NEXT STEPS REQUIRED ARE POSITIVE, PALPABLE COUNTERMEASURES BY ALL REPEAT ALL ALLIES. BEFORE WE CAN WALK THAT ROUTE TOGETHER, LET'S NOT OPEN A NEW ONE DOWN WHICH WE STRAGGLE.

6. AS TO THE BELGIAN'S PROPOSAL, IT IS ANOTHER BUREACOCRATIC BY-PATH, HARMLESS ENOUGH IN ITSELF BUT DETRAILING FROM THE MAIN ISSUE WHICH IS ACTION. WHAT ARE THE BELGIANS DOING BY WAY OF COUNTERMEASURES? THAT IS THE QUESTION, NOT STRIKING A BELLA FIGURA IN NATO COUNCILS.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TRIPOL00401
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TRIPOLI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730431/aaaahkxo.tel
Line Count: 106
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 USNATO 1598
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <29-Aug-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971118
Subject: LIBYAN PASSPORT POLICY
TAGS: CPAS, PFOR, LY, n/a, NATO
To: ATHENS
BONN
BRUSSELS
EUR
LONDON
MOSCOW
PARIS

ROME
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005